GODS WAR-

ning to his people of *England*.

BY THE GREAT OVER-flowing of the VVaters or Floudes lately hapned in *South-wales* and many other places.

WHEREIN IS DESCRIBED the great losses, and Wonderfull damages, that hapned thereby: by the drowning of many Townes and Villages, to the vtter vndooing of many thousandes of People.

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Gods Warning to his people of England.

MANY are the dombe warninges of Distruction, which the Almighty God hath lately scourged this our Kingdome with; And many more are the threatning Tokens, of his heauy wrath extended toward vs: All which in bleeding hearts, may inforce vs to put on the true garment of Repentance. and like vnto the Niniuits, vnfainedly solicite the sweet mercies of our most louing God: Therefore let vs now call to remembrance the late grieuous and most lamentable Plague of Pestilence, wherein the wrath of God tooke from vs so many thousandes of our friendes, Kindred and acquaintance: let vs also call to remembrance the most wicked and pretended malice, of the late Papisticall Conspiracie of Traytors, that with powder practised the subuersion of this beautifull Kingdome: And lastly let vs fix our eyes vpon theise late swellinges of the outragious Waters, which of late now happed in diuers partes of this Realme, together with the ouerflowing of the Seas in diuers and sundry places thereof: whose fruitfull valeys, being now ouerwhelmed and drowned with these most vnfortunate and vnseasonable salt waters, nor fore-theis great Barrennes, and

Famin to ensue after it, (vnlesse the Almighty God of his great infinit mercy and goodnesse doe prevent it.) But now oh England, be not ouercome with thine owne folly: Be not blinded with the ouermuch securitie of thy selfe, neyther sinke thou thy selfe in thine owne shame: For since the generall dissolution of the whole world by Water, in the time of Noy, neuer the like Inundation or watry punishment then happed now here related to the great griefe of all Christian hearers, as by this sequell it shall heare appeare.

Vpon Tuesday being the 20. of January last past, 1607 in diuers places aswell in the Westerne partes of England, as also in diuers other places of this Realme: there happed such an ouerflowing of Waters, such a violent swelling of the Seas, and such forcible breaches made into the firme Land: namely into the bosomes of these countries following. That is to say, in the Counties of Glocester, Sommerset, together with the Countries of Munmoth, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, and diuers and sundry other places of South-wales: the like neuer in the memory of man, hath euer bin seene or heard of: The suddayne terror whereof strooke such an amazed feare into the hearts of all the inhabitants of those partes, that euery one prepared himselfe ready to entertayne the last Period of his liues Destruction: Deeming it altogether to be a second delage: or an vniuersal, punishment by Water.

For vpon the Tuesday being the 20. of January last, as aforesaid, about nine of the clocke in the morning, the Sunne being most fayrely and brightly spred, many of the Inhabitantes of those Countreys before mencioned, prepared themselues to their affayres, some to one businesse, some to an other: euery man according to his calling. As the Plowmen setting forth their Cattle to their labours, the Shepheardes feeding of their flockes, the Farmers ouer-seeing of their grounds, and

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looking to their cattle feeding therein, and so every one imploid in his busines, as occasion required. Then they might see perceiue a far of, as it were in the Element, huge and mighty hilles of water, tumbling one ouer another, in such sort as if the greatest mountaines in the world, had ouer whelmed the lowe Valleyes of Earthy grounds. Sometimes it so dazled the eyes of many of the Spectators, that they immagined it had bin some fogge or mist, comming with great swiftnes towardes them: and with such a smoke, as if Mountaynes were all on fire: and to the view of some, it seemed as if Millyons of thousandes of Arrowes had bin shot forth all at one time, which came in such swiftnes, as it was verily thought, that the Fowles of the ayre could scarse fly so fast, such was the threatning furyes thereof.

But assone as the people of those Countries, perceiued that it was the violence of the Waters of the raging Seas, and that they began to excede the compasse of their accustomed boundes, and making so furiously towardes them. happy were they that could make the best, and most spead away, many of them, leauing all their goods and substance, to the mercilss Waters, being glad to escape away with life themselues: But so violent and swift were the outragious waues, that pursued one an other, with such vehemencie, and the Waters multiplying so much in so short a time, that in lesse then fiue houres space, most part of those countreys (and especially the places which lay lowe,) were all ouerflowen, and many hundreds of people both men women, and children were then quite deuoured, by these outragious waters, such was the furie of the waues, of the Seas, the one of them driuing the other forwardes with such force and swiftnes, that it is almost incredible for any to beleaue the same, except such as tasted of the smart thereof, and such as beheld the

ſame, with their eyes: Many more, the Farmers, Husbandmen, and Shepheards, might beholde their goodly flockes of Sheepe, ſwimming vpon the Waters dead, which could by no meanes be recouered.

Many Gentlemen, Yeomen and others, had great losses, of cattle, as Oxen, Kine, Bullockes, Horses, Colts, Sheepe, Swine, May not ſo much as their poultry about their houſes, but all were overwhelmed and drowned, by theſe merciles Waters: Many men that were rich in the morning when they roſe out of their beds, were made poore before none the ſame day: ſuch are the Iudgements of the Almightie God, who is the gouer of all good thinges, who can and will diſpoſe of them agayne at all times, according to his good will and pleaſure, whenſoeuer it ſhall ſeeme beſt vnto him. Many others likewiſe, had their habitations or dwelling houſes all carryed away in a ſhort time, and had not a place left them, ſo much as to ſhrowde themſelues in.

Moreouer, many that had great ſtore of Corne and Grayne, in their Barnes and Garners in the morning had not within fiue houres ſpace afterwardes, ſo much as one Grayne to make them bread withall: Neither had they ſo much left as a locke of Hay or Straw to feede their cattell which were left: Such was the great miſery they ſuſteyned by the fury of this watry Element, from which like, good Lord I beſeech him of his infinit e mercy and goodnes to deliuer vs all.

The names of ſome of the Townes and Villages which ſuffered great harmes and loſſes hereby were theſe, (Viz.)

Briſtoll and Auſt, this Auſt is a village or town ſome 8. miles diſtant from Briſtoll vpon the Seauerne ſide where all people are Ferryed over, that come out of Wales, into thoſe partes of Glouceſter and Sommerſett-ſhire.

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All the countries along on both the sides of the Riuer of Seauerne, from Glouceſter to Briſtoll, which is about some 10. miles was all ouerflowne, in some places 6. miles ouer, in some places more, in some lesse.

Moreouer, all or the most parte, of the Bridges, betweene Glouceſter and Briſtoll, were all forcibly carried away with the Waters: besides many goodly buildings there about, much defaced, and many of them carried quite away: besides many other great losses of all kinde of Corne and Grayne, and cattle that were then lost.

At Aulk, many passengers that are Ferryed ouer there now, are faine to be guided by guides, all along the Cawses, where the water still remayneth for the space of 3 or 4 myles, or else they wilbe in great daunger of Drowning, the Water lyeth as yet so deepe there.

Many dead Carkasses, both there, and in many other places, of the country, are dayly found floating vpon the Waters, and as yet cannot be knowne who they are, or what number of persons are drowned, by reason of the same Waters, which as yet in many places remaine very deepe: so great was the spoyle that theise merciles Elementes there wrought and made.

In Briſtoll was much harme done, by the ouerflowing of the Waters, but not so much as in other places, many Cellars and Ware-houses, where great store of Marchandize was in, (as Wine, Salt, hops, Spices, and other such like Wares) were all spoyled. And the people of the Towne were inforced to be carried in Boates, vp and downe the said Cittie about their busines in the Fayre time there.

Vpon the other side of the Riuer of Seauerne, towardes a Towne called Chepſtow, vpon the lower groundes, was much harme done, by the violence of the Water.

There was in Chepſtow a woman drown'd in her

bed:

bed: and also a Cyple, by the like misfortune.

Also, all along the same coastes, vp to Gold-cliff, Matherne, Calicot-Moores, Redriff, Newport, Cardiffe, Cowbridge, Swansey, Laugherne, Llanstephan, and diuers other places, of Glamorgan-shire, Munmoth-shire, Carmarthen-shire, and Cardigan-shire: many great harmes were there done, and the waters raged so furiously, and with such great vehemencie, that it is supposed that in those partes, there cannot be so few persons drowned as 500: both Men, Women, and Children, besides the losse of aboundance of all kinde of Corne and Graine: together with their Hay, and other prouision which they had made for their Cattle.

Moreouer, there were in the places afore mentioned, many thousandes of Cattle, which were feeding in the Lowe Valeys, drowned and ouerwhelmed with the violence of the furious waters: as Oxen, Kine, young beastes, horses, Sheepe, Swine, and such like, the number is deemed infinit: yea, and not so much as Turkies, Hens, Geese, Duckes, and other Poultry about their houses could once escape away, the Waues of the Sea so ouerwhelmed them.

And that which is more straunge: There are not now found onely floating vpon the Waters still remaining, the dead Carkasses of many men women and children: But also an aboundance of all kinde of wilde Beasts, as Foxes, Hares, Connies, Rats, Moules and such like: some of them swimming one vpon an others Backe, thinking to haue saued themselues thereby, but all was in vaine, such was the force of the Waters that ouerpressed them.

In a place in Munmoth shire, there was a maide went to milke her Kine in the morning, but before she had fully ended her busines, the vehemencie o' the Waters increased, and so suddenly enuironed her about, that she could not escape thence, but was enforced to make shift

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vp to the top of an high Banke to saue her selfe, which she did with much adoe, where she was constrained to abide all that day and night, vntill 8 of the clocke in the next morning, in great distresse, what with the coldnes of the ayre and waters: and what with other Accidents that there hapned vnto her, she had bin like there to haue perished: had not the Almightie God of his infinit mercy and goodnes, preserued her, from such great perills and daungers, which were likely there to ensue vnto her.

But there placing her selfe for safeguard of her life as aforesaid, hauing none other refuge to fly vnto: the Waters in such violent sort had so pursued her, that there was but a small distance of ground left vncouered with Waters, for her to abide vpon: There she remayned most pittyfully lamenting the great daunger of life that she was then in, expecting euery minute of an houre, to be ouerwhelmed with those mercyleſſe Waters: But the Almighty God, who is the Creator of all good things, when he thought méte, sent his holy Angell to commaund the Waters to cease their fury: and to returne into their accustomed bounds againe, whereby according to his most blessed will and pleasure she was then preserued.

In the meane space, during the continuance of her abode there, diuers of her friends practised all the meanes they could to recouer her, but could not, the Waters were of such a depenes about her, and Boates they had none, in all those partes to succour her, such was their want in this distresse, that many perished through the want thereof.

There was a Gentleman of worth, dwelling nére vnto the place where she was, who caused a goodly Gelding to be sadled, and set a man vpon the backe of him, thinking to haue fetcht her away, but such were the depenes of the waters, that he durst not aduenture

the same, but refused.

At last some of her friends, deuised a deuise, and fyed two broad Troughes the one to the other, (such as in those countreys they vse to salt Bacon in) and put therin two lustie strong men, who with long Powles (stirring these troughes) (as if they had bin boates) made great shift to come to her, & so by this meanes, through Gods good helpe she was then saued.

But now (gentle Reader) marke what befell, at this time, of the strangenes of other creatures: whom the Waters had violently oppressed: for the two men which toke vpon them to fetch away the maide from the top of the Banke, can truely witnes the same as well as her selfe to be true, for they beheld the same with their Eyes.

The hill or Banke where the maide abode all that space, was all so couered ouer, with wilde beastes and vermin, that came thither to seeke for succour) that she had much adoe to saue her selfe, from taking of hurt by them: and much a doe she had to keepe them from creeping vpon and about her, she was not so much in daunger of the Water on the one side: as she was troubled with these Vermin on the other side.

The beastes and Vermin that were there were these. (Viz)

Dogs Cats, Poules, Foxes, Hares, Conyes, yea and not so much, as Mice and Rats: but were there in abundance and that which is more straunge: The one of them neuer once offred to annoy the other: although they were deadly enemies by Nature the one to an other: Yet in this daunger of life, they not once offred to expresse their naturall enuie: But in a gentle sort, they freely inioyed the libertie of life, which in mine opinion, was a most wonderfull worke in Nature.

But now let vs leaue this matter touching this Maide,

maids, beſides the other accidentes before rehearſed and let vs returne againe to theſe watry miſeries: The counties of Glamorgan, Carmarthen, and Cardigan, and many other places in South-wales, haue likewiſe borne the heauy burden, of Gods wrath herein: And many were the liues of them that were loſt through this watery deſtruction.

Many there were which fled into the tops of high trées, and there were inforced to abide ſome three daies, ſome more, and ſome leſſe, without any victuals at all, there ſuffring much colde beſides many other calamities, and ſome of them in ſuch ſort, that through cuer much hunger and cold, ſome of them fell down againe out of the Trées, and ſo were like to periſh for want of ſuccour. Otherſome, ſate in the tops of high Trees as aforeſaid, beholding their wiues, children, and ſeruants, ſwimming (remedileſſe of all ſuccour) in the Waters.

Other ſome ſitting in the tops of Trees might behold their houſes ouerflowne with the waters. ſome their houſes caryed quite away: and no ſigne or token left there of them.

Many of them might ſée, as they ſtood vpon the tops of high Hilles, their cattle periſh, and could not tell how to ſuccour them, and their Barnes, with all their ſtore of Corne and Graine quite conſumed, which was no ſmall griefe vnto them.

Many people and Cattle in diuers places of theſe Countreys, might haue béene ſaued in time, if that the countreys had béene any thing like furniſhed with boates, or other prouiſion fit for ſuch a ſudden Accident, as this was, which as God himſelfe knoweth, was little expected of them to haue fallen ſo ſuddenly vpon them.

But ſéeing the countreys were ſo vnfurniſhed with Boates, much harme was done, to the vtter vndoing of many thouſandes.

Some fled into the tops of churches and Steeples,

to ſaue themſelues, from whence they might behold, themſelues depriued aſwell of all their ſubſtance, as alſo of al their ioys, which they had before receiued in their liues and children, beware. whole Rakes of Peaſe, Beanes, Oates, and other graine were ſeene a far of, to float vpon the Water to and fro, in the Countreys as if they had bin ſhips vpon the Seas.

The Foundations of many Churches and houſes, were in a manner decaied, and ſome carried quite away, as in Cardiffe, in the county of Glamorgan there was a great part of the Church next the Water ſide taken downe, with the Water, many houſes and Gardens there, which were nere the water ſide, were all ouerflowen, and much harme done.

Diuers other Churches lie hidden in the Waters, and ſome of them the tops are to be ſeene: and other ſome, nothing at all to be ſeene, but the very tops of the Staples, and of ſome of them nothing at all, neyther ſtaple nor nothing elſe. Alſo many ſchooles of young ſcholliers, in many places of thoſe countreys, ſtood in great perplexitie, ſome of them aduenturing home to their parents were drowned by the way: Other ſome ſtaying behinde in in Churches, did climbe vp to the tops of Staples, where they were very nere ſtarued to death for want of foode and fire: many by the help of boards and plankes of Wood, ſwam to dry land and ſo were preſerued from vntimely Death, Many had Boates brought them, ſome 10 miles, ſome 15. ſome 20. where there was neuer ſeene any Boates before.

Thus God ſuffred many of them to eſcape his prefull wrath, in hope of their amendment of life: Some men that were riding on the high wayes were ouertaken with theſe mercileſſe Waters, and were drowned.

And againe many haue bin moſt ſtrangely preſerued.

As for example, there was in the Countie of Glamorgan, a man both blind and did ride and one which had

had not bin able to ſtand vpon his legs in ten yeares be-
fore, he had his poore cottage broken downe by the force
of the Waters, and himſelfe, Bed and all caryed into
the open fields, where being readie to ſinke, and at the
point to take a reſting place, two fathoms deepe vnder
the Waters: his hand by chaunce catcht holde of the
Maſter of an houſe ſwimming by the fiercenesſe of the
Winds, then blowing Eaſternely he was driuen ſafe-
ly to the Land, and ſo eſcaped.

Alſo in an other place, there was a man Child of the
age, of 5. or 6. yeares, which was kept ſwimming for
the ſpace of two houres, aboue the Waters, by reaſon
that his long Coates lay ſpread vpon the tops of the wa-
ters, and being at laſt, at the very poynt to ſinke:
there came by chaunce by, (floating vpon the tops of the
Waters,) a fat Weather that was dead, very full of
Wooll. The poore diſtreſſed Child perceiuing this good
meanes of recouerie, caught faſt holde on the Wethers
Wool, and likewiſe with the winde he was driuen to
dry land, and ſo ſaued.

There lyes alſo in the County of Carmarthen, a
young Woman, who had foure ſmall Children, and
not one of them able to helpe it ſelfe: And the Mo-
ther then ſeeing the furyes of the Waters to be ſo vio-
lent to ceaze vpon her threatning the Deſtruction of
her ſelfe and her ſmall Children, (and as a Womans
wit is euer ready in extreamities) The tooke along
Trough, wherein ſhe was wont to make her bread in,
and therein placed her ſelfe, and her foure Children:
And ſo putting themſelues to the mercies of the Wa-
ters, they were all by that meanes driuen to the dry
land, and by Gods good prouidence thereby they were
all ſaued.

Many more there were that through the handy-
workes of God were preſerued from this violent death
& Drowning, ſome on the backes of dead Cattle:

some vppon Wodden planks: some by clymbing of Trees: some by remaining in the tops of high Steeples and Churches, other some by making of speed away with swift horses, and some by the meanes of Boates, sent out by their friendes to succour them: but there were not so many so straungely saued, but their were as many in number as straungely drowned.

The lowe Marshes and Fenny groundes, nere Barstable in the Countie of Deuon were ouerflowne, so farre out, and in such outragious sort, that the countrey all along to Bridge-water was greatly distressed thereby, and much hurt there done it is a most pittifull sight to beholde what numbers of fat Oxen, were there drowned: what flockes of Sheepe, what heades of Kine, haue their bin lost, and drowned in in these outragious Waters: there is little now remaining there, to be seene, but huge Waters like to the maine Ocean: The tops of Churches and Steeples like to the tops of Rockes in the Sea. Great Rickes of Fodder for Cattle, are floating like Ships vpon the Waters, and dead Beastes swimming thereon: Cow pasture fading on the same, through the rigour of this Element of Water: The tops of Trees, a man may beholde remaining aboue the Waters, vpon whose branches, multitudes of all kinde of Turkies, Hens, and other such like Poultry were faine to fly vp into the Trees to saue their lines, where many of them perished to death, for want of relefe, not being able to fly to dry land for succour, by reason of their weakenes.

This mercyleſſe Water breaking into the Bosome of the firme Land, hath proued a fearefull punishment, as well to all other liuing Creatures: as also to all Mankinde: Which if it had not binne for the mercyfull promise of God, at the last dissolution of the World, by Water, by the signe of the Rainbowe,

bowe, which is ſtill ſhewed vs: we might haue verily beleeued, this time had bin the very houre of Chriſt his comming: From which Element of Water, extended towardes vs in this fearefull manner, god Lord deliuer vs all. Amen.

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FINIS.